

ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Robert Greene Sterne Edward J. Kessler Jorge A. Goldstein David K.S. Cornwell Robert W. Esmond Tracy-Gene G. Durkin Michael B. Ray Robert E. Sokohl Eric K. Steffe Michael Q. Lee Steven R. Ludwig John M. Covert Linda E. Alcorn Robert C. Millonig Lawrence B. Bugaisky Donald J. Featherstone Michael V. Messinger Judith U. Kim Timothy J. Shea, Jr. Patrick E. Garrett Heidi L. Kraus Edward W. Yee Albert L. Ferro\* Donald R. Banowit Peter A. Jackman Molly A. McCall Teresa U. Medler Jeffrey S. Weaver Kendrick P. Pattersov Vincent L. Capuano Albert J. Fasulo II\* Eldora Ellison Floyd Thomas C. Fiala Brian J. Del Buono Virgil Lee Beaston' Kimberly N. Reddick Theodore A. Wood Elizabeth J. Haanes Bruce E. Chalker Joseph S. Ostroff Frank R. Cottingham Christine M. Lhulier Rae Lynn Prengaman Jane Shershenovich\* Lawrence J. Carroll\* George S. Bardmesser Daniel A. Klein\* Rodney G. Maze Jason D. Eisenberg Michael A. Specht' Andrea J. Kamage Tracy L. Muller' Jon E. Wright\*

September 5, 2003

LuAnne M. Yuricek\*

Registered Patent Agents Karen R. Markowicz
Nancy J. Leith
Ann E. Summerfield
Helene C. Carlson
Gaby L. Longsworth
Matthew J. Dowd
Aaron L. Schwatz
Angelique G. Uy
Mary B. Tung
Katrina Y. Pel
Bryan L. Skelton
Robert A. Schwartzman
John 1. Figurena

Teresa A. Colella Jeffrey S. Lundgren Victoria S. Rutherford

Of Counsel Kenneth C. Bass III Lisa A. Dunner Evan R. Smith

\*Admitted only in Maryland \*Admitted only in Virginia •Practice Limited to Federal Agencies

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER: (202) 772-8626 INTERNET ADDRESS: SLUDWIG@SKGF.COM

Art Unit 1761

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re:

U.S. Utility Patent Application

Appl. No. 10/050,047; Filed: January 17, 2002

For: Methods of Increasing Hardness of Food Products

Inventors:

Egbert et al.

Our Ref:

1533.1510001/SRL/JLP

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

- 1. Status Inquiry Letter; and
- 2. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox p.l.l.c.

Steven R. Ludwig

Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 36,203

SRL/JLP/tc Enclosures SKGF\_DC1:174994.1

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Egbert et al.

Appl. No. 10/050,047

Filed: January 17, 2002

For: Methods of Increasing Hardness

of Food Products

Confirmation No. 1188

Art Unit: 1761

Examiner: Nina Bhat

Atty. Docket: 1533.1510001/SRL/JLP

## **Status Inquiry Letter**

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please advise the undersigned of the present status of the above-identified patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Steven R. Ludwig

Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 36,203

Date:

1100 New York Avenue N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005-3934

(202) 371-2600

::ODMA\MHODMA\SKGF\_DC1;174986;1 SKGF Rev. 1/26/01 mac; 4/22/03 svb